



# Manhasset Bay Protection Committee

**Minutes: May 11, 2023, 7:30pm**  
*Plandome Village Hall*

**Attendance:** Bob Keane (Chairman, Port Washington North), Kevin Braun (Town of North Hempstead), Charlie Interrante (Nassau County), Don Richardson (Plandome), Nora Haagenon (Mayor, Baxter Estates), Gary Lewandowski (Flower Hill alternate), Mike Ertel (Sands Point), Jennifer Wilson-Pines (Manorhaven), Carey Ye (Kensington), Annie Mendelson (Great Neck), Ebi Victory (Kings Point), Maria Branco (Baxter Estates, alternate), Samantha Wilder (Intern), Paul Merkelson (Transition Port Washington), Mariann Dalimonte (Councilmember, District 6), Erin Molyneux (Councilmember Dalimonte's office), Sarah Deonarine (Director)

**Meeting was called to order at 7:35pm with a quorum in attendance.**

Note: Action items are in **yellow highlight**. *Motions are in italicized underline.*

## **Discussion & Motion points:**

1. *Nora Haagenon made a motion to adopt the minutes of March 16, 2023.* Kevin Braun seconded. The motion passed with one abstention (not present at last meeting).
2. Website hosting renewal: *Maria Branco made a motion to renew web hosting for five (5) years and codeguard (website back-up) and weebly (website builder) for one year at a total of \$1,175.16.* Don Richardson seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.
3. *Jennifer Wilson-Pines made a motion to retroactively sign-on to a Federal Whale Protection support letter along with other Long Island Sound groups.* Carey Ye seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.
4. *Mike Ertel made a motion to purchase promotional stickers at a cost not to exceed \$1,000.* Don Richardson seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.  
Discussion: The Committee decided to go back to the SWIMBY (Safe Water in Manhasset Bay) cartoon fish for use on promotional stickers.
5. The Committee discussed retractable banners for use at various events, but decided to table the idea until designed.
6. NYSDEC's<sup>1</sup> saline waters reclassification. *Maria Branco made a motion to send an initial comment letter on the saline waters reclassification to the NYSDEC.* Ebi Victory seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried. Discussion: Part of the

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<sup>1</sup> NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

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reclassification would make it harder for the back portions of the Bay to achieve the water quality standard and there is no reason the back part of the bay should have stricter standards as there is no access to get in there, plus geese flock in this area. Additionally, there is not enough time between the public meetings and the comment deadline. These two points are covered in the letter.

7. WQIP<sup>2</sup> Community Outreach Plan: Deonarine sent more comments back to the consultant, NPV<sup>3</sup>, but has not heard back yet
8. Discussion: The Chief Bay Constable reached out and asked if the Committee could provide oil absorbent materials (booms, cloths, etc). The Committee recommended seeking out a grant program to provide the materials.
9. Mike Ertel made a motion to retroactively approve the letter of support sent for Cornell Cooperative Extension Nassau for oyster gardening. Maria Branco seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

### **Updates, Reminders, & Municipal Updates:**

- The joint protection committee meeting was cancelled in lieu of a meeting of the directors/coordinators about a (or multiple) project(s) the groups could take on together. The meeting was very productive and came up with a lot of ideas, but a final project is yet to evolve.
- The “Housing Compact” was removed from the State Budget and is now going through a legislative process. The joint protection committees are going to craft a letter to discuss the sensitive environment of LI.
- Shellfish Density Survey: Cashin Assoc. (our contractor) now has the NYSDEC permit and they’re planning the survey. Deonarine will make sure the Town knows ahead of time when the survey will start.
- Manhasset Al Fresco – looking for volunteers
- The annual MS4 report is due to NYSDEC by June 1<sup>st</sup>. There are no updates on the new MS4 permit.
- North Shore Shellfish Seeding Grant: The proposal is moving through EPA. After different offices approve it, it goes to contract, which could take 45 days or so.
- DEC<sup>4</sup>/Marcellino water quality monitoring grant updates: The Committee has received the final reimbursement. The final task is to complete the water quality reports – the first draft of which went out to reviewers yesterday.
- The Committee participated in both the Envirothon and two Earth Day events (Manhasset Chamber of Commerce and the Port Washington Public Library, thanks to Kristina Lobosco for volunteering)
- Nassau S.E.P.T.I.C. program, LINAP<sup>5</sup>, WAC<sup>6</sup>, Long Island Sound Study – Both the Town of North Hempstead and Nassau County Soil & Water Conservation District are doing rain garden and native plant rebates.

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<sup>2</sup> Water Quality Improvement Plan; funded by grant from NYS Department of State

<sup>3</sup> Nelson, Pope, and Voorhees

<sup>4</sup> NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

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- Town of North Hempstead (Councilperson Mariann Dalimonte): The Town is starting an oyster shell collection and recycling program. They are working with Seatuck and the Science Museum of LI. Oysters that were seeded last year are growing at all three locations, but one spot is really growing. Could be because it's a more protected site. Another million spat-on-shell oysters are going in this summer.
- Village of Kensington: Carey Ye was just elected trustee.
- There was a brief discussion about where there is an incentive a village could give builders for putting in advanced septic (IA) systems with new construction; Don suggested a legislative template.
- Village of Plandome (Deputy Mayor Don Richardson): just put in new code requiring IA systems

### **Upcoming meetings and events:**

- Upcoming meetings: June 8<sup>th</sup>
- May 20<sup>th</sup> Beach Clean-up at Bay Walk Park (ultimately cancelled)
- Harbor Fest June 4<sup>th</sup> at Port Washington Town Dock – volunteers needed

*Mike Ertel made a motion to adjourn at 8:52pm.*

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<sup>5</sup> Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan – State initiative

<sup>6</sup> Town's Waterfront Advisory Committee, MBPC is a member

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